

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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INSURANCE SCAMMER FOUND GUILTY

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on April 18, 2003, AMACHI UZOIGWE AKPA, also known as SIMON AKPA, D.O.B. 6-6-61, of Surprise, AZ, was found guilty of 4 counts of Wire Fraud and 5 counts of Mail Fraud by a federal jury at Phoenix, Arizona.

The evidence at trial showed AKPA employed a scheme to defraud insurance companies and other businesses by purchasing insurance policies and then claiming losses for items he did not own or possess. The evidence also showed that he fabricated invoices purporting to confirm purchases of the lost or damaged items, and then wired or faxed copies of the phony invoices to the companies providing the insurance. The companies decided to pay the claims based upon the documentation submitted by AKPA, and then issued and mailed payment checks to him. Victim companies listed in the indictment were Traveler's Insurance Group, Nova Casualty Company, and DHL Airways, Inc. The evidence also showed that, between May of 1995 and September of 2000,

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AKPA filed 13 different claims with 7 different companies and was paid approximately \$86,000 for settlement of those claims.

The defendant was continued on release pending sentencing.

AKPA had been charged with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1343, Wire Fraud, 4 counts, and 1341, Mail Fraud, 5 counts. The case was tried before United States District Court Judge Earl H. Carroll from April 9, to April 18, 2003.

A conviction for Wire Fraud or Mail Fraud carries a maximum penalty of 5 years, a \$250,000 fine or both, as to each of the 9 count of conviction. Restitution to the victims is also required by Federal law.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

Sentencing is set before Judge Earl H. Carroll on June 30, 2002, at 2:30 PM.

The prosecution is being handled by Daniel R. Drake, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-1070-PHX-EHC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-063

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